

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

PRS-01 PA-01 USIE-00 SAM-01 CPR-01 RSC-01 /038 W

----- 050276

O R 021330Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8104

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HELSINKI 2437

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FI

SUBJ: DEATH OF MRS. SYLVI KEKKONEN -- WIFE OF
PRESIDENT KEKKONEN

1. MRS. SYLVI KEKKONEN, WIFE OF PRESIDENT KEKKONEN,
PASSED AWAY TODAY, DECEMBER 2 -- AT THE AGE OF 74.

2. MRS. KEKKONEN HAD BEEN ILL FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.
SHE SUFFERED FROM SEVERE ARTHRITIS AND WAS CONSIDERED
AN INVALID. IN RECENT YEARS MRS. KEKKONEN RARELY
PARTICIPATED IN ANY OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS.

3. ASIDE FROM HER PROMINENCE AS THE WIFE OF PRESIDENT
KEKKONEN, MRS. KEKKONEN WAS KNOWN IN HER OWN RIGHT
AS A GIFTED AUTHORESS OF SHORT STORIES AND NOVELS.
SHE WAS ALSO CONSIDERED A PATRON OF THE ARTS, INTER-
ESTED IN MUSEUMS, THEATER AND ART.

4. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AT THIS TIME ABOUT WHEN
FUNERAL WILL BE HELD OR WHO WILL ATTEND. WE ALSO
DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS MEANS A CANCELLATION OF
PRESIDENTIAL DECEMBER 6 INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION
FOR, AMONG OTHERS, DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

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5. WE SUGGEST THAT PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD SEND A
SHORT MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO PRESIDENT KEKKONEN
AND PEOPLE OF FINLAND.

6. WE ALSO FEEL THAT TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY CON-
GRATULATORY INDEPENDENCE DAY TELEGRAM
FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENT KEKKONEN BE
TRANSMITTED AS USUAL, ALTHOUGH SEPARATELY.
KREHBIEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: martinml
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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